

2020 Fifteenth Annual Dialog on Sustainability: "Rural Sustainability"

Virtual event, hosted by Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas on Saturday, July 18, 2020

Q & A CHAT

Chat related to Rural Food Supply

Russ Senti: Is there only one small store in each town or multiple stores?

Mary Mertz: I'm interested in the other KS towns where non-profit groceries are located.

Lutherans Restoring Creation: 09:27 AM - This is an incredible resource you offer locally! Is there a national network that you suggest we (Lutherans Restoring Creation) share with our Domestic Hunger Education that can help lift up rural groceries outside of Kansas also? Looking to add to this part of our site relating food-faith-farming > <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/food-faith-farming/>

Judy Nickelson: 09:30 AM - What local/statewide effort is being made to encourage a state farm/food program?

Lee Skabelund: 09:31 AM - What is the likelihood that we will see a progressive Farm Bill?
What can citizens do to help?

Mary Fund: 09:32 AM - Paul, can you elaborate on how the Pandemic has highlighted weaknesses in the Kansas food system?

Tami Alexander: 09:35 AM - Could David Procter share his contact info again please? Thank you!

Mary Mertz: 09:40 AM - dprocter@ksu.edu

Carmel Powers: 09:41 AM - Maybe it would help if consumers could tell if their meat was processed in one of these small processing operations?

Mary Fund: 09:42 AM - We have also seen growing interest by consumers in buying direct growers (vegetables and meat) so greater support by the State of Kansas or K-State Extension to address for the challenges they face would be good.

Gayla Snyder: 09:42 AM - How does the Kansas Rural Center assist with this?

Lee Skabelund: 09:44 AM - Let's discuss more about what citizens can do to help improve plans & policies...

Dorothy Barnett: 09:45 AM - I'm curious how Covid has impacted farmers' markets and small producers?

Mary Mertz: 09:47 AM - I co-manage a local-foods grocery in Salina. In our area, demand has visibly increased, esp. for local meat -- the bottleneck is the lack of small processing plants.

Dorothy Barnett: 09:48 AM - We all need to VOTE - for candidates who share our values around this issue.

Mary Fund: 09:49 AM - The timing of the Pandemic seriously impacted farmers' markets and growers. They had short time to do quick turn to online marketing and safety measures at markets.
But they did a great job at pivoting

Ann Marie Katt: 09:49 AM - I am a KSRE SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educator, working in Geary County. The Live Well Geary County group there worked diligently to open the farmer's market there and it seems to very successful and people attend with their masks!

Candice Shoemaker: 10:00 AM - Here is a link to local foods resources for Kansas, KSRE <https://www.rrc.k-state.edu/localfoods/index.html>

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Chat related to Wind & Solar Energy

Lutherans Restoring Creation: 10:01 AM - For some great talking point tools for any concerned re: distrust about corporate interests "ruining" renewables check this out: <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/confused-about-our-way-forward/>

Mary Fund: 10:01 AM - Do wind developers communicate/meet with local communities within the wind farm footprint and offer those communities any direct aid? I know the counties receive funds but not the small communities.

nonstrand@gmail.com: 10:10 AM - Are churches eligible for REAP grants or other financial assistance?

Sabrina Rosario: 10:12 AM - How many electric co-ops are there in Kansas, and where are they located?

Tami Alexander: 10:13 AM - A partial list of KS electric co-ops is available here: <https://www.kec.org/members>
There are also dozens of small municipal electric utilities in KS - www.kmunet.org/page/MunicipalMembers

Bill Richter: 10:13 AM - What is the current status of pricing incentives from Evergy and other companies to encourage buy-back from home solar systems?

Anonymous: Are there noise issues with turbines? What are thoughts about visibility issues?

Anonymous: What about trees and new buildings being removed

Mary Mertz: 10:14 AM - Could you further explain the 'virtual power plant' concept?

Lee Skabelund: 10:19 AM - Bill, please talk about the role of electricians in the process of installing solar PVs, and how systems interact with the grid. Also about durability and longevity of rooftop solar PV systems (or nearby systems placed in the field).

Mary Fund: 10:19 AM - Dorothy, can you give us the name of the reporter and the wind farm guides again?

Dorothy Barnett: 10:21 AM - Brian Grimmet KMWU Public Radio - www.kmuw.org/post/kansas-wind-turbine-placement-rules-depend-your-county-heres-guide

Chat related to Rural Resilience

Lee Skabelund: 10:42 AM - Stacy, please discuss the importance of water in relation to soil and ecological health.

Dede Brokesh: 10:44 AM - Stacy, please speak about some theories regarding factors that can contribute to resilience in rural counties?

Mary Fund: 10:44 AM - I see sociology as part of Stacy's team. Can you elaborate on how the social sciences are being integrated? Often the biggest challenge or resistance to change in rural communities comes from people and their understanding/perception of the problems and needs.

Dorothy Barnett: 10:47 AM - Watch for a webinar, hosted by CEP in mid-August on the Federal “Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2020” The Growing Climate Solutions Act creates a certification program at USDA to help solve technical entry barriers to farmer and forest landowner participation in carbon credit markets. These issues – including access to reliable information about markets and access to qualified technical assistance providers and credit protocol verifiers – have limited both landowner participation and the adoption of practices to help reduce the costs of developing carbon credits.

Bill Richter: 10:47 AM - Is the difference between resiliency and sustainability the assumption we are not in a position we would like to sustain?

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Dorothy Barnett: 10:47 AM - You can sign up to get our updates at www.climateandenergy.org

Gerry Snyder: 10:49 AM – Growing Climate Solutions Act - www.braun.senate.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/Growing%20Climate%20Solutions%20Act%20One%20Pager_0.pdf

Stacy Hutchinson: 10:49 AM - https://kstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8dm3d6cWMfO582N

Divine Tarla (from Cameroon, Africa): 10:54 AM - Our team is here to learn and integrate these ideas in our research and application...

Lee Skabelund Notes:

Need for high-speed Internet in rural areas.

Need for small & regional meat and crop production with soil conservation and ecological & social values embedded in the use of land for agriculture. Food Policy Councils & Farmers Markets play important roles.

See also <https://sustainableagriculture.net/> | <https://kansashealthyfood.org/>

Need for engagement and active communication with local people regarding their interests, needs & vision.

Need for greater focus (policy, plans & practices) on food & energy production and community development to support community health & wealth (in the spirit that this is discussed by Aldo Leopold, Rachel Carson, Robert Bullard, Wendell Berry, Wes Jackson, N. Scott Momaday, and many others).

www.colorlines.com/articles/read-five-environmental-justice-activists-roots-and-future-movement

www.ideastream.org/news/n-scott-momaday-brings-a-native-american-perspective-to-a-time-of-chaos

www.theatlantic.com/notes/2019/11/modern-women-rural-america/601759/

Input invited by Larry Erickson for the 2021 Dialog!

Email ideas and suggestions to: lerick@ksu.edu